

*spiritual form of this malady is when we see God as the culprit for our own sins.*

2. James 1:13-16 - We must not blame God for our temptations. *"God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone....when desire has conceived it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown brings forth death."*
3. 1 John 2:15 - The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life result in sin. God does not put these in our way, He commands us to hate them and reject them.
4. Galatians 5:17 - The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. These are contrary to one another. Christians must be led by the Spirit, producing the fruit of the Spirit, not the works of the flesh (vs. 18-23).
4. **Vision Correction:** With my newly corrected vision I will be able to place the blame where it belongs and recognize that God has always given me the ability to resist sin (1 Corinthians 10:13). I simply cave to the devil too easily. I will no longer blame God or anyone else for my sins. I will rather repent and beg God's forgiveness.
- E. **The Vision Problem:** *"Dr. I am just not able to see the light that the Lord talks about. All I can see is darkness."*
  1. **The Diagnosis:** Cataracts - A gradual clouding of the lens of the eye that gradually decreases one's sight to the point that blindness can occur. According to the Swagel Wootton Eye Institute, untreated cataracts are the principal cause of blindness in the world. *There are many people who suffer from spiritual cataracts, their perception and understanding of God's law so cloudy that they have become blind to its light.*
  2. Ephesians 5:8 - *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."*
  3. Psalms 119:105 - The Law of God lights our way.
  4. 1 John 1:6-7 - We cannot walk in darkness and be in fellowship with God.
  5. **Vision Correction:** With my new eyes, I will be less attracted to the darkness in the world, and I will add to my faith, virtue, longsuffering, etc. I will only walk in the light from now on, and I will grow spiritually every day.

## Church of Christ

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Material:

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## Schedule Of Services...

### Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 9:50 a.m.  
Worship 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.



December 20, 2020

## Corrected Vision

David Weak

- I. **Introduction:** There are many vision problems which plague people. These problems can one lead to blindness, or they can simply distort one's view of the world around him, and they can even distort one's view of himself and his relationship with God. In the following lesson we are going to compare real, known eye diseases to their spiritual equivalent. Then we are going to see what diagnosis God's word gives to relieve the vision problems.
- II. **Vision Problems And Our Faith:**
  - A. **The vision problem:** "Dr. I can only see what is right in front of me. I can't see anything farther along."
    1. **The diagnosis:** Myopia - An eye imperfection in which sight is limited to one's immediate position. Anything farther away than a few feet is blurred beyond recognition. *Many Christians suffer from a kind of myopia. They only see what they can see right in front of them. Their sufferings and hardships, and cannot see by faith any blessings from the Lord.*
    2. 2 Corinthians 4:17 - *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,"*
    3. 2 Corinthians 4:18 - *"while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*
    4. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."*
    5. **Vision Correction:** With this correction, I will begin to see the "big picture" more clearly. I will not be terrified of the ghostly

shadows of the future, and I will not be overwhelmed by the shocking clarity of the things I see right in front of me. My faith will increase to include the knowledge that if I follow Christ faithfully I will be well.

A. **The Vision Problem:** “Dr. I see my life as nothing more than a long series of frightening trials and tribulations. There is no joy in life only fear.”

1. **Diagnosis:** *Metamorphopsia* – A condition in which one sees image with bent or bowed features. Things one sees can take on a frightening look. ***It is a terribly unfortunate thing for a Christian to have a warped view of life, and to view all troubles and trials as disproportionate to the blessings of Christ.***
2. James 1:2-4 – Count it all joy when you fall into various trials.
3. James 5:10-11 – The Old Testament was filled with examples of righteous men suffering, the prophets, Job, etc. Which should alert us to the fact that this is sometimes our lot. *“Indeed we count them blessed who endure.”*
5. Hebrews 11:32-39 – Many in Old Testament history suffered terrible things, and yet, they have *“obtained a good testimony through faith,”* even though they died without receiving the promise.
6. Acts 5:40-42 – The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
7. **Vision Correction:** With this new correction, I will start seeing be able to clearly see the joy that trials bring to me. I will not confuse joy of this kind with artificial smiles and bursts of laughter, but rather, the contented knowledge that trials make me a better person and Christian. They produce patience in me when I endure them faithfully.

B. **The Vision Problem:** “Dr., when I pray, I am filled with doubt. How do I know God is really listening? I pray and pray for God to help me, but then I look around and see the same old problems.”

1. **Diagnosis:** *Palinopsia* – This is a malady in which one sees “afterimages.” People with this eye problem have a hard time distinguishing what is real and what is not. ***Christians can sometimes be confused by false perceptions of God and how He answers our prayers.***
2. James 1:5-8 – *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind....”*
3. Ephesians 3:20-21 – We must never forget the foundational truth behind prayer: *“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to*

*all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

3. 1 John 5:14-15 – Christians must have confidence that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.
4. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – Paul prayed for his thorn to be removed three times, but God’s answer was: *“My grace is sufficient for you.”*
5. **Vision Correction:** With this new perspective and vision correction, I will finally understand that God doesn’t answer my prayers according to my desires, because I don’t know what’s best for me the way God does. I will finally be able to see more clearly that sometimes God answers “no.” My new sight will allow me to no longer be a double-minded man, unstable in all of his ways.

C. **The Vision Problem:** “Dr. My life is a mess. Everyone else is doing great. That’s how it looks to me. Everywhere I look the grass is always greener than where I’m standing.”

1. **The Diagnosis:** *Hyperopia* – A condition in which close up objects are hopelessly blurred, but distant objects appear in sharp focus. ***This may be one of the most common maladies God’s people suffer from. The complaint about how well the wicked are doing in relation to the righteous is far too often on the lips of some Christians.***
2. 1 Samuel 8:4-5 – Israel asked Samuel to plead with God for a king. They thought the nations around them had a better system.
3. 1 Samuel 8:9-18 – God told Samuel to warn the people about the nature of their request. The king would solve none of their problems.
4. Psalms 73:1ff – David could not see the reality of the situation in the lives of rich, worldly people. He could not see their true condition. He could only see that his life was hard, and he lost hope.
5. **Vision Correction:** With my new corrected eyes, I will no longer see everyone else as better off than me. I will be able to recognize that God will hold all men to account.

D. **The Vision Problem:** “Dr. I have this terrible view that God is really to blame for my sins. If He had made me better, or if He had made my life easier, or if He had given me more strength so that I could better resist temptations, then I would not sin so much.”

1. **The Diagnosis:** *Charles Bonnet Syndrome* (pronounced bo-NAY) – A Condition in which with waking but diminished sight, one sees complex patterns, flowers, animals, people, buildings, etc. Hallucinations make it hard to know what is real. In one noted case, a woman reported constantly seeing people in her apartment, and she would call out to them. Another woman lost 25 pounds because she would see bugs crawling on her food. None of this was real, but the people could not see reality for what it was. **A**